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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

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No. 15

Congressional Budget Hearings Held

SEA budget hearings in both the House and the Senate kept us quite busy in March. Overall, I think that the hearings went very well.

Questions from committee members covered the gamut of our many programs and projects including competitive research grants; Bankhead-Jones funds administered by Higher Education; specific research programs on tobacco, fire ants, gypsy moths, the Southern pine beetle and others; TIS; and of course, our cooperative efforts with the States through CR and Extension.

At the Senate hearing, Senator Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) complimented both our presentation of how SEA functions in relation to the nation's science and education community and our FY 1982 budget request presentation. He was impressed that SEA was the only USDA agency to receive an increase under the administration's revised FY 1982 budget.

Even so, SEA will need to make a \$6.3 million cut in FY 1981 funds allocated for travel, employment, equipment and consulting.

Throughout the year we call on people in all SEA units, our cooperators, advisory groups, and others around the country to contribute in various, and frequently time-consuming, ways to the budget development process. I'd like to thank all of you for your fine contributions and support. They have certainly paid off well.

Kinney Represents U.S. in Rome

AR Administrator Terry Kinney, Jr. was in Rome for about two weeks to head a six-person U.S. delegation to a meeting of the Committee on Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. The delegates will study current world food conditions, and will begin preparing the FAO budget which will be submitted at a biennial organization conference, scheduled for this coming fall.

Personnel Ceiling and Travel Reductions

Although all of the details have not been worked out yet, we have some information on the \$6.3 million SEA budget reductions for travel, personnel, equipment and related items.

. SEA's permanent, full-time personnel ceiling for both 1981 and 1982 is 8,250 -- a reduction of 50 from the previous ceiling.

. Travel funds authorizations were reduced by \$2.4 million for 1981 and by \$3.6 million for the 1982 budget estimates.

. Authorized use of consultants has been cut by \$135,000 for both 1981 and 1982.

The 1981 supplemental appropriation to cover the cost of pay raises was cut by \$2.8 million, and 1982 costs were scaled back by \$2.2 million.

Users Advisory Board to Meet April 6-8

The National Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board will meet at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, April 6-8, and will hold a public forum to hear views on needs and priorities for research and extension programs. The Board is especially interested in getting comments on issues dealing with water resources, IPM, and participation in Extension program activities.

At its February meeting the Board elected John Pino, Rockefeller Foundation, director for agricultural sciences, as chairman for the coming year, and Harriet Barlow, director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, as vice-chair.

Plant Germplasm Repository to be Dedicated

The Northwestern National Plant Germplasm Repository in Corvallis, Ore. will be dedicated April 15. One of twelve proposed repositories, it will be part of a national system and to preserve germplasm and provide it on request to U.S. plant specialists.

Unlike existing repositories that maintain germplasm for plants propagated from seed, the Corvallis facility will house clonal material for plants -- such as pears, filberts, strawberries, other small fruits, hops and mint -- which are propagated vegetatively.

Otto Jahn, horticulturalist with AR in Orlando, Fla., has been named curator of the \$1 million facility. H C Cox, Western Region Administrator, Quentin Jones, Assistant to the Deputy Administrator for Germplasm, and many representatives from the crop breeding and new crop development industries will attend.

New Head of Plant Genetics and Germplasm Institute

Allan K. Stoner is the new Chairman of the Plant Genetics and Germplasm Institute at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. Dr. Stoner is an international authority on tomato breeding who joined USDA in 1965 as a research horticulturist. He replaces John G. Moseman who is returning to full-time "bench" research at the Beltsville Field Crops Laboratory.

USDA Appointments, Nominations

C. W. McMillan has been confirmed by the Senate as assistant secretary of agriculture for marketing and transportation services. McMillan was formerly vice-president for government affairs for the National Cattlemen's Association and executive vice-president of the American National Cattlemen's Association. McMillan has been an assistant 4-H Club agent, a county agent and a faculty member of Colorado State University, where he received a B.S. in economics.

Seeley G. Lodwick has been nominated by the White House to be under secretary of agriculture for international affairs and commodity programs. Lodwick has held several posts in the Iowa State government and has participated in many State and national agricultural organizations.

John B. Crowell, Jr. has been nominated for the post of assistant secretary of agriculture for natural resources and environment. Crowell has served as general counsel for Louisiana-Pacific Corporation and also as attorney for Georgia-Pacific Corporation. He received a L.L.B. from Harvard Law School.

New Deans, Experiment Station Director Named

William P. Flatt was appointed dean and coordinator of the College of Agriculture at the University of Georgia in March. Dr. Flatt, a national leader in agricultural research, was Director of Georgia's Agricultural Experiment Stations for 10 years. An authority on animal nutrition, he joined the University in 1969 as head of the Animal Science Department and chairman of the Animal Science Division. Before that he worked for ARS in Beltsville, Md., for over 13 years. He is national chairman of NASULGC's Experiment Station section and national secretary of their Agriculture Division.

Leroy Davis became dean of agriculture at Southern University, Baton Rouge, La. in January. He joined the faculty at Southern University in 1972 and has been head of the Agricultural Economics Department there. A specialist in small farm studies, he received a B.S. from AM&N College, Arkansas, and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.

Lowell N. Lewis was recently appointed Assistant Vice President -- Agriculture and University Services and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station for the University of California. A plant physiologist, he had been associate dean at the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at Riverside since 1971. He is a graduate of Penn State, and received a Ph.D. from Michigan State.

College Graduates Needed for Home Economics Professions

More college graduates trained in home economics professions will be needed throughout the 80's to achieve progress in family and individual stability, security, and quality of life, according to the second volume of SEA's Higher Education study.

The study projects an annual shortage of about 7,000 individuals with home economics or related degrees. This shortage will also affect the growth of household-oriented businesses and industries.

Prepared by Kyle Jane Coulter and Marge Stanton, SEA-Higher Education, the study indicates that the most critical need will be for graduates with doctoral degrees.

Educational backgrounds especially needed at the doctoral level are in design, manufacturing, and processing; college teaching and administration; scientific and professional specialties; service specialties and administration and management.

This study is the second in a series made in response to the 1977 Food and Agriculture Act. The first, issued last July, reported on the need for graduates in agriculture, natural resources and veterinary medicine.

For a copy of the study, "Graduates of Higher Education in the Food and Agricultural Sciences: An Analysis of Supply/Demand Relationships, Volume II--Home Economics," M 1407, contact: SEA Publications, Room 6007-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Joan S. Wallace Visits SRRC

Dr. Joan S. Wallace, USDA Assistant Secretary for Administration, met with the staff of the AR Southern Regional Research Center at New Orleans on March 10 and visited some of the research facilities there. She saw the tuft-to-yarn system in the textile mill, the enzymatic process for utilizing catfish wastes, and the procedure being developed to aid FSQS in evaluating the quality of eggs. She also sampled two popular SRRC products -- defatted peanuts and cottonseed protein cookies.

Meetings with Agricultural Groups

During the past month we've had several opportunities to visit with representatives of major agricultural groups and to discuss their concerns relating to SEA programs. Terry Kinney and I met with representatives of the National Cattlemen's Association including Tom Cook, John Merrill, and Dub Waldrip. Walt Thomas and I talked with members of the National Association of Wheatgrowers and later in the month Drs. Kinney and Thomas met with the Oregon Wheatgrowers Association.

On March 24, several of the Maryland Soil Conservation District Supervisors stopped by my office for a visit.

Western Research and Extension Directors' Meeting

The Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors and Extension Directors is holding a joint annual meeting April 1-3 in Oakland, Calif. Attending from SEA will be Edward C. Miller, CR; Clare Harris, acting SEA associate administrator; and Mary Nell Greenwood, EXT.

SEA "NEWSMAKERS" Wins Award

SEA's employee newsletter NEWSMAKERS, which also goes to cooperators, recently garnered its second award from the Society for Technical Communication, the international award of achievement for "superior writing, editing, graphics, and total integration." The international competition includes entries not only from government agencies but also from large commercial organizations, such as Mobile Oil.

Joint Council National Research Committee to Meet

The Joint Council's new National Research Committee will be holding an important organization and planning meeting in Washington, D.C., April 14-15.

The group will tackle a major task at its April session--that of organizing to become a more effective instrument to foster planning, coordination and articulation of agricultural science policy issues in the United States.

Committee members, who come from land grant and other universities and colleges, the private sector, and USDA, plan to address three major topics. They will establish a charter for the committee; a program of work for 1981; and concepts and protocols for decision-making and for completing the program of work.

The committee must determine how it will function and accomplish its role of advising the Joint Council on agricultural research issues, priorities and programs. This is a major step forward in setting up the Joint Council regional and national committee network.

U.S.-Japan to Cooperate in Biomass Program

Japanese and U.S. researchers will work together to develop a joint program in biomass production and conversion. The first step toward this program was a recent visit to a number of SEA-AR research facilities by Akihiko Hayami, research coordinator of biomass conversion for Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. William Tallent, Director of SEA-AR's Northern Regional Research Center in Peoria, coordinated the visit.

In the fall, Japanese and U.S. researchers will hold a panel meeting in the United States that will focus on improving the efficiency of agricultural energy utilization. The program will also deal with various aspects of photosynthesis, nitrogen fixation, and biomass conversion. Gerald Still, SEA chief scientist for plant and entomological sciences, will be in charge of this session.

Tentative plans are being made for SEA-AR scientists to visit Japan in 1982 to view advances in fermentation and other microbiological techniques.

The biomass program is being carried out under the intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation in Research and Development in Science and Technology, signed in May 1980, and coordinated by the Scientific and Exchange Division of the Office of International Cooperation and Development (OICD).



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